

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 FEA-00 INT-05 OES-03 SAB-01

/070 W

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R 071450Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1242

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

COMIDEASTFOR

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG, US

SUBJECT: REACTION TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S BUSINESS

WEEK INTERVIEW

SUMMARY. SECRETARY KISSINGER'S REMARKS TO BUSINESS WEEK CONCERNING POSSIBLE USE OF FORCE TO PRESERVE OIL FLOW IN CASE OF GRAVE CRISIS HAVE ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION IN CAIRO. EDITORIALS UNANIMOUSLY CONDEMN THESE "AMERICAN THREATS". END SUMMARY.

1. FRONT PAGES OF CAIRO NEWSPAPERS JAN 7 ARE DOMINATED BY STORIES

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ON KISSINGER'S STATEMENT. AKHBAR, FOR EXAMPLE, BANNERS: "WE REJECT

AMERICAN THREATS TO OIL STATES". STORIES TALK OF "ANGRY REJECTION" BY ARAB WORLD OF SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS, CITING REMARKS BY ARAB LEAGUE SYG RIAD JAN 6, WHO REPORTEDLY SAID ARAB STATES REJECT ATTEMPTS TO RETURN WORLD TO "POLICIES OF THREAT AND DOMINATION", AND THAT ARAB STATES MUST CONSIDER TAKING PREVENTIVE STEPS. ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE'S "WARGING" THAT AMERICAN MILITARY INTERVENTION WOULD BE "COLONIALIST UNDERTAKING DOOMED TO FAILURE" ALSO RECEIVES HEAVY PLAY. GUMHURIYYA, CITING NEWS AGENCY REPORTS, ALLEGES SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS SENT MESSAGES TO KUWAIT, IRAN, SAUDI ARABIA, ABU DHABI, AND VENEZUELA "AFFIRMING HIS THREATS".

2. EDITORIALS UNANIMOUSLY CONDEMN WHAT GUMHURIYYA CALLS "ARCHAIC IMPERIALIST MENTALITY OF DOMINATION". AHRAM JAN 6 WARNED THREATS TO USE FORCE AS MADE BY SECRETARY AND WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN ARE TOTALLY REJECTED, NOT ONLY BY ARABS, BUT ALSO FROM STANDPOINT OF INTERNATIONAL LEGITIMACY AS POINTED OUT BY UN SYG WALDHEIM.

3. AHRAM'S ALI HAMDI AL-GAMAL FINDS IT STRANGE THAT SENATOR JACKSON, "ISRAEL'S AGENT", OPPOSES USE OF FORCE; HIS OPPOSITION MUST STEM FROM KNOWLEDGE THAT "SUCH A POLICY WILL REVEAL TO AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT IT IS ISRAEL WHICH IS CAUSING THEIR SUFFERING".

4. SECRETARY'S REMARKS HAVE BECOME POPULAR CONVERSATION TOPIC IN CAIRO. EGYPTIAN COMPLAIN TO EMBOFF'S THAT THIS KIND OF BACKGROUND MUSIC IS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO NEGOTIATING PROCESS. SOME EVEN PROFESS TO BELIEVE SUCH STATEMENTS ARE NOT BACKGROUND MUSIC BUT CONFESSION THAT OUR QUIET DIPLOMACY IS AT IMPASSE. ONE SENIOR ARAB LEAGUE OFFICIAL LAMENTED TO EMBOFF THAT THIS "THREATENING" TO USE FORCE IS EQUIVALENT TO HANDING SADAT'S DOMESTIC ENEMIES A WEAPON WITHWHICH TO SNIPE AT HIS PRO-AMERICAN POLICY. WE ARE CAREFUL TO EXPLAIN CONTEXT IN WHICH SECRETARY'S REMAKRS WERE MADE, BUT EGYPTIANS WE TALK TO ARE LESS WORRIED ABOUT ACTUAL SUBSTANCE OF REMARKS THEN ABOUT FACT THAT USG HAS APPARENTLY DELIBERATELY DECIDED WIELD PSYCHOLOGICAL BIG STICK. VISIT OF AIRCRAFT CARRIER TO GULF IS CITED AS FURTHER PROOF OF WHAT IS GENERALLY REGARDED HERE AS ILL-ADVISED DECISION.

EILTS

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